

## BUILD SKILLS

### The Earth On Turtle's Back • When Grizzlies Walked Upright • *from The Navajo Origin Legend* • *from The Iroquois Constitution*

#### LITERARY ANALYSIS

People often have a need to explain how life began. **Origin myths** are stories passed down from one age group to the next. Animals often play a main role in Native American myths. These myths help explain parts of a culture such as

- customs and religion
- natural objects and events, such as mountains or floods
- events people cannot control.

#### READING STRATEGY

Many stories are filled with details about the people who created the story. **Recognizing cultural details** will help you understand the culture that tells the story.

- Note objects, animals, or activities in the story. These items can tell you something about how the people of a culture live, think, or believe.
- Also note whether a detail is repeated in a story. A repeated cultural detail often shows an important part of the culture.
- Use this chart to list the cultural details that you recognize in these four stories.

Details that signal how each group lives, thinks, or worships	
Onondaga	
Modoc	
Navajo	
Iroquois	